

a processing chamber for holding a specimen;
means for regulating flow of fluid to the processing chamber;
means for regulating pressure in the processing chamber;
means for regulating temperature in the processing chamber;
at least one container of a clearant agent, at least one container of a dehydrant agent and
at least one container of an aqueous fluid, the containers of clearant, dehydrant and aqueous fluid
being connected to the processing chamber via means for regulating flow of fluid to the
processing chamber; and
a control device having a processor and a memory device, the processor controlling the
means for regulating flow of fluid, the means for regulating pressure in the processing chamber,
and the means for regulating temperature in the processing chamber in order to automatically and
sequentially connect the processing chamber with the container of clearant agent, the container of
dehydrant agent and the container of aqueous solution in order to reprocess the specimen and in
order to automatically and sequentially regulate temperature and pressure of the processing
chamber while the processing chamber is sequentially connected with the container of clearant
agent, the container of dehydrant agent and the container of aqueous solution.

REMARKS

In paragraph six of the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected as being unpatentable over
Kinney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,001,460) in view of either Mathiesen et al. (WO 95/17657) or